

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-07 EB-12 COME-00 INT-08 IO-14

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 FEAE-00 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 ACDA-19 CG-00

DOTE-00 FMC-04 OMB-01 COA-02 AGR-20 JUSE-00 CIEP-03

CEA-02 AID-05 DRC-01 /187 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4309

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN PLOS IN

SUBJECT: US TANKER TRANS HURON

1. THE TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE TRANS HURON WHICH
WAS PRESENTED TO THE CHARGE ON OCTOBER 4 IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE AMERICAN OIL TANKER 'TRANS HURON' RAN AGROUND
ON 26 SEPTEMBER, 1974 NORTH OF KILTAN ISLAND IN THE
LAKSHADWEEP AND MINICOY ISLAND GROUP. ITS ALMOST
ENTIRE CARGO OF 20,000 TONS OF FURNACE OIL HAS LEAKED
OUT AND SPREAD THREE MILES SOUTH OF THE ISLAND. IT IS
APPREHENDED THAT THE SPREAD OF OIL WILL HAVE A DESTRUCTIVE
EFFECT ON MARINE FISHERIES AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE
COASTLINE CREATING SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE FISHING
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CRAFT AND PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE COAST.

A NOTICE HAS BEEN SERVED BY THE ENGINEER AND
SHIP SURVEYOR, MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT, COCHIN
ON THE MASTER OF THE U.S. VESSEL AND ITS LOCAL AGENTS
AT COCHIN TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE
SPILLAGE OF OIL FROM THE GROUNDED TANKER INTO THE SEA
AND FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM THE SEA TO A SAFE PLACE ASHORE.
A COPY OF THE NOTICE SERVED ON THE MASTER IS ENCLOSED.

THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REQUEST THE U.S.
EMBASSY TO TAKE NECESSARY PREVENTIVE AND REMEDIAL ACTION
IN THE ABOVE MATTER. THE MINISTRY IS COLLECTING
INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOSSES AND DAMAGES SUFFERED OR
WHICH MAY ARISE AS A RESULT OF THESE SPILLAGES AND
WILL REVERT TO THESE ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION LATER.
UNQUOTE. END TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE.

2. THE TEXT OF THE ENCLOSURE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE I AM DIRECTED TO STATE THAT THE GROUNDING OF
AMERICAN TANKER 'TRANS HURON' BELONGING TO HUDSON
WATERWAYS CORPORATION AND UNDER YOUR COMMAND AGENCY WITH
CARGO OF OIL ON BOARD IS LIKELY TO:

(ONE) CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE COASTS AND BEACHES OFF
THE KILTAN ISLAND AND THE WEST COAST OF INDIA AND
CONSEQUENT HINDRANCE TO HEALTHFUL RECREATION AND
INTERFERENCE WITH THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND
(TWO) CAUSE THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS AND
OTHER WILD LIVES WITH PROBABLE ADVERSE EFFECT
ON FISH AND OTHER MARINE ORGANISMS ON WHICH
THEY FEED
IF THE OIL IN CARGO AND FUEL TANKS OF THE GROUNDED
TANKER OFF KILTAN ISLAND IS ALLOWED TO SPILL INTO THE
SEA. SINCE PUBLIC INTERESTS DEMAND THAT THE DAMAGE
TO THE ABOVE INTERESTS SHOULD BE PREVENTED AND FAILING
WHICH MITIGATED AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, I AM DIRECTED TO
SERVE THIS NOTICE ON YOU CALLING UPON YOU TO TAKE ALL
SUCH IMMEDIATE AND URGENT MEASURES AS MAY BE DEEMED
APPROPRIATE TO PREVENT THE SPILLAGE OF OIL FROM THE GROUNDED
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TANKER INTO THE SEA AND FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM THE SEA
TO A SAFE PLACE ASHORE. ANY FAILURE, WILFUL OR
OTHERWISE, TO DO SO WILL MAKE YOU LIABLE FOR ALL DAMAGES
THAT MAY BE SUFFERED BY THE RELATED INTERESTS REFERRED
TO ABOVE. IT MAY FURTHER BE NOTED IF YOU FAIL TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE ACTION AS AFORESAID THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS IT MAY THINK
FIT AND YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS

INCURRED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.
PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT. UNQUOTE.SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIDE MEMOIRE, TRANS HURON, OIL SPILLS, SHIP ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE13309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0396
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741072/aaaacpj.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US TANKER TRANS HURON
TAGS: CGEN, PLOS, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005